

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims pending

- At the time of the Final Action: Claims 1-14 and 22-24.
- After Entry of this Response: Claims 1-7, 9-14 and 22-24.

Canceled claim: 8.

Previously canceled claims: 15-21.

Amended claim: 1.

New claims: None.

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for blocking at least one outgoing communication from a calling party to a ~~called~~calling line selected by the calling party in connection with a parental control feature offered to subscribers as an outgoing call blocking service, said calling party having a calling line identification number, said method comprising:

enabling the subscriber to select special feature codes and request that outgoing communications that relate to the special feature codes, and that originate from the calling line identification number, be blocked;

receiving an outgoing communication related to ~~a~~at least one of the special feature codes, said calling line associated with at least one subscriber to the outgoing call blocking service;

obtaining a calling line identification number for said received outgoing communication;

obtaining a called line identification number for said received outgoing communication;

activating the outgoing call blocking service at a first pre-set time;

de-activating the outgoing call blocking service at a second pre-set time;

looking for said calling line identification number associated with the received outgoing communication in a data store to determine data associated with said calling line identification number concerning calls from the calling line to a called line which are to be blocked;

terminating the received outgoing communication if the data indicates that the received outgoing communication is to be blocked; and

overriding the outgoing call blocking service for at least a second single outgoing communication from the calling line by entering in response to receiving an override code.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the special feature code is a star-feature code.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the special feature code relates to conference call capabilities.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises a list of area codes to which calls are to be blocked.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises a list of at least one of a plurality of called line identification numbers of calls which are to be blocked.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all calls.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all long distance calls.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all calls except calls to one of a plurality of specified area codes.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all calls except local calls.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of activating an outgoing call blocking service provided as a parental control feature, the method comprising:

receiving, from a calling line at a central office associated with the calling line, a predetermined access code to the outgoing call blocking service;

prompting a subscriber to the outgoing call blocking service to provide data concerning outgoing calls to be blocked;

receiving the provided data;

storing said data in a data store associated with the outgoing call blocking service;

activating the outgoing call blocking service at one of a pre-set time and a pre-set day;

enabling the subscriber to prohibit outgoing long-distance calls from being placed from the calling line;

enabling the subscriber to prohibit outgoing calls to at least one specified area code;

enabling the subscriber to prohibit outgoing calls to at least one specified telephone number;

enabling the subscriber to prohibit calls that relate to special feature codes from being placed from the calling line, wherein at least one of the special features is a star feature code that relates to conference calling capabilities;

enabling the subscriber to allow outgoing calls only to at least one specified local telephone number; and

enabling the subscriber to allow outgoing calls only to at least one specified telephone number.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
prompting the caller for an authorization code; and
comparing the received authorization code with a stored authorization code for the calling line identification number.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising activating the service if the received authorization code corresponds to the stored authorization code for the calling line identification number.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising not activating the service if the received authorization code does not correspond to the stored authorization code for the calling line identification number.

15. - 21. (Canceled).

22. (Previously Presented) A system for blocking a call between a calling line and a called line within a telecommunications network as part of an outgoing call blocking service offered to subscribers as a parental control feature, the system comprising:

a service switching point office for receiving an out-going call request from the calling line to the called line;

a storage device for storing data concerning outgoing calls to be blocked, and further for storing at least one pre-set time period over which the outgoing call blocking service is to be activated or de-activated, the time period being defined by at least one pre-set time or at least one pre-set day;

a controller for determining if data concerning an outgoing call from the calling line to the called line corresponds to data concerning calls to be blocked; and

a services circuit node adapted to enable a subscriber to the outgoing call blocking service to:

prohibit outgoing long-distance calls from being placed from the calling line;

prohibit outgoing calls to at least one specified area code;

prohibit outgoing calls to at least one specified telephone number;

prohibit calls that relate to special feature codes from being placed from the calling line, wherein at least one of the special features is a star feature code that relates to conference calling capabilities;

allow outgoing calls only to at least one specified local telephone number;

and

allow outgoing calls only to at least one specified telephone number.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the controller terminates the call if data concerning a call to the called line corresponds to data concerning calls to be blocked.

24. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the controller completes the call if data concerning a call to the called line does not correspond to data concerning calls to be blocked.